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NEAR EAST-AFRICA

1. INDIA: Tibet to be given additional arms aid--US Embassy New Delhi has been reliably informed that India, with British encouragement, has granted a request from Tibet for small arms and ammunition in materially larger quantities than the limited amounts supplied in the past. The Embassy reports, however, that British representatives doubt Tibet has any real military plan for resisting an organized Communist incursion and regard India's move largely as a measure for raising Tibetan morale and combatting the immediate danger of infiltration. Pointing out that India has failed to respond to British offers of material help in this program, the Embassy comments that India would probably be cool toward similar US offers on the grounds that: (a) India is already providing all that Tibet can use; (b) collaboration with the US in an anti-Communist program would be politically undesirable; and (c) the US has been unable to meet India's own requests for military aid.

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FAR EAST

2. INDOCHINA: Vietnam expecting US aid--US representative Griffin, in making a preliminary report from Saigon concerning his fact-finding mission to Southeast Asia, indicates that present Vietnamese expectations regarding US aid are great as a consequence of Ambassador Jessup's recent visit, the extension of US recognition, and the impending US naval visit. The French military commander in Indochina has pointed out that essential encouragement could best be given to Vietnam by prompt US token deliveries of equipment, preferably military. Griffin emphasizes, however, that although the early arrival of even token US aid may contribute to rallying Bao Dai, any aid extended in present circumstances must have both a political and a military impact.

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